

Travel voucher processing improves

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
 — Wing Public Affairs

Many backlogged travel vouchers, submitted from Reservists this fiscal year, are on the way to getting caught up and processed for payments.

"We're seeing improvements," said Senior Master Sgt. Louis Desjardins, the superintendent of the 446th Airlift Wing Financial Management office.

"Three weeks ago, over 4,000 travel vouchers were in backlog. As of June 10, they were getting caught up. There were a lot of payments scheduled for June 11, 12 and 13."

Reservists with pending vouchers need to contact the 62nd Airlift Wing finance office here if they haven't received a payment or payment summary three weeks after submitting their voucher, said Sergeant

Desjardins. The 62nd AW, as McChord's host unit, supports the 446th AW in travel payment processing.

The Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters sent specialists to the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. to help educate the AFFSC in processing Reservists' travel vouchers.

AFRC and the supervisory staff at AFFSC have been work-

ing together on the delayed vouchers and voucher processing in the Reserve Travel System, said Larry Collier, the director of financial management at AFRC.

The lack of manpower at AFFSC and the staff's unfamiliarity with Reserve entitlements, are the prime issues with the

■ See **VOUCHERS**, Page 3



Freedom
 WHAT IT TAKES

McChord Air Expo 2008
 July 19 & 20

FREE TO THE PUBLIC
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Air Expo features Thunderbirds demo

By Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
 — Wing Public Affairs

After a three-year hiatus, McChord's Air Expo is July 19-20 here.

"Since we haven't had an air show here in three years, we wanted to put on a show like the public has never experienced before," said Air Expo Director, Maj. Doug Edwards, 62nd Airlift Wing.

To that end, Major Edwards and his team of planners booked four official active-duty demo teams: the Air Force Thunderbirds, Wings of Blue, and official F-15 Eagle and F/A-18 Hornet demonstrations.

By no means will the aerial entertainment end there. More than 100 unique aircraft will either perform or be displayed at the expo.

The 446th Airlift Wing will man one of two C-17 statics that

day, and provide other displays of the Reserve wing's mission, such as aeromedical evacuation, aerial port operations, and airlift control flight equipment.

Here's the quick 411 on Air Expo 2008:

Hours: Gates open at 8:00 a.m., and flying starts at 10:30 a.m., both days of the event.

Articles you can bring onto McChord: strollers, cameras/camcorders, small lawn chairs, small purses or fanny packs, water (clear plastic bottles only), wheelchairs, canes, and guide/working dogs.

Prohibited articles: Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, Segways, roller skates, coolers, cans, liquids (except water), tote bags, backpacks, briefcases, large lawn chairs, pets, weapons.

For more information, visit the Web site: www.mcchordairexpo.com or call 982-EXPO.

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July 21 is the deadline for articles in the August issue of **The 446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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Diversity key to greatness

By Col. Lisa Tank

— Vice commander

We are truly blessed to belong to the greatest Air Force in the world! I wholeheartedly believe the cornerstone to this greatness is the diversity of the men and women serving our country. Every Airman is here because they want to be. We wear our uniform proudly because we believe in something bigger than ourselves. We are willing to serve, sacrifice, and contribute to this great country of ours. We come from every walk of life and every corner of the country.

Yet occasionally we let our differences get in the way of seeing our co-worker as an "Airman first." Often times we think of diversity encompass-

ing the lines of gender, race, and religion; which it does. It can also encompass age, duty status (ART vs. traditional), and a myriad of other variables.

What makes us different or diverse also makes us unique. Every individual has special talents and insights that need to be brought into the mix. By capitalizing on those individual strengths we become a stronger force.

So how do we monopolize on diversity and continue a strong tradition of excellence? Consider this poster I saw in my son's school titled "The most important lessons in life...I learned in Kindergarten." Those lessons are:

Say Hello ... Please ...
Thank You ... Can I help? ...
I'm Sorry

Simple – yes, but we must slow down enough to realize



Col. Lisa Tank

we need to respect and care for one another. If we don't, our capacity to function as a team is diminished. Our organization's war fighting capabilities will be compromised if our Airmen don't perform at 100 percent capability. This will only happen when we respect our individual differences.

Followership Lost art path to leadership

By Senior Master Sgt. James Kuchnsky

— 446th Operations Group

After studying leadership in the Air Force for more than 24 years, completing my professional military education and a graduate degree in human resources, I've come to the conclusion that good followership is as important as good leadership.

Being a follower is oftentimes associated with negative behavior. I don't how many times as a child growing up I was told to stop being a follower. "Be a leader," "Set the example," "Do the right thing." These are all great concepts, but they are not exclusive to great leadership. They equally apply to great followership.

Leaders can only exist and accomplish extraordinary goals if they have fully-supportive followers. As followers, aren't we all just leaders in training? In the face of ineffective

leadership or no leadership at all, a good group of followers can keep an organization afloat. Effective followers can look beyond leadership voids by showing a strong commitment to the organization and its mission. Today's followers are tomorrow's leaders.

What makes a good follower?

Recognition and appreciation of the leader is an effective followership trait. It's not "apple polishing," to compliment leaders or show them appreciation for a job well done. Leaders who stand up for their troops are certainly worthy of some appreciation. As leaders gain more responsibility and authority, they are often given less appreciation.

Another excellent followership trait is the ability to counsel and coach a leader when necessary. For most followers this is a slippery slope.

See FOLLOWERSHIP, Page 6

Travel card program changes banks

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Wing Public Affairs

Don't get too attached to your current Government Travel Card.

The GTC is switching banks once again. Bank of America has decided not to back the card anymore.

Citibank has picked up the reins of the GTC and will be issuing new cards to replace the existing one. The target date Citibank will become the provider of the GTC is Nov. 30.

Bank of America GTC card holders should expect to receive the new Citibank card between August and September, said Senior Airman Karrie Conway, 446th Airlift



Photo by Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
The Government Travel Card is switching banks in November.

Wing financial management.

All outstanding debts with Bank of America need to be settled with Bank of America, said Senior Master Sgt. Louis Desjardins, 446th Airlift Wing financial

management. Debts with Bank of America will not transfer to Citibank and must be resolved within 210 days.

To ensure the Citibank card is distributed correctly, Airmen must confirm their mailing addresses on file with Bank of America are current.

Individuals temporarily assigned elsewhere at the time of transition must use the Bank of America card through Nov. 29, and convert to Citibank on Nov. 30.

There is a new benefit for restricted cardholders with Citibank. If you have a restricted account, cardholders will have the opportunity (and are encouraged) to apply for a standard account.

VOUCHERS

Continued from Page 1

error rate and lack of timeliness of processing the vouchers and their processing, said Mr. Collier.

The Air Force standard for processing vouchers is within five days. The Financial Services Center is working to establish meaningful metrics for management purposes. The staff at the AFFSC processes vouchers as quickly as possible and the recent changes should that expedite the process.

Since AFFSC has taken over Air Mobility Command's travel pay system, AFFSC's personnel have been working 12-hour shifts, six days a week, said Sergeant Desjardins. Over 125 civilians have been interviewed to fill new openings at Ellsworth.

Even though Ellsworth personnel are taking steps on its end to make the process go smoother, here at McChord the 62nd and 446th AW finance specialists are working to smooth it over as well, said Sergeant Desjardins.

Currently, travel vouchers are processed to the Air Force Financial Service Center in

a shared folder in a Remote Access Drive, said Sergeant Desjardins.

RAD is a contingency work around until the new Enterprise Information Management system is modified.

EIM allows users to access and share information across the wing, command and the Air Force, in one common storage area online.

The RAD will eventually be phased out by EIM, said Sergeant Desjardins. It should cut out a lot of the inefficiencies of trying to track down travel documents.

None of the AMC bases have converted to the EIM system yet, said Maj. Michael Jesson, the 62nd Comptroller Squadron commander. Air Education and Training Command has successfully brought on six bases to the EIM system, even though it has a few minor issues.

"I don't know when McChord will switch to EIM. AMC has not established a timetable yet," said Major Jesson. "They are closely monitoring the AETC transition and will develop a time frame soon."

With the personnel cutbacks in the 62nd, the 446th Airlift



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
Senior Airman Karrie Conway, a comptroller with the 446th Airlift Wing financial management office, left, scans a travel voucher for processing while Tech. Sgt. John Barnes, 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, looks on. Both have been helping the 62nd Comptroller Squadron process travel vouchers for transmittal to the Air Force Financial Service Center, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Wing has five Reservists providing essential processing support to the active-duty's finance office.

"Having outstanding professionals like Sergeant Desjardins, Tech. Sgt. (John) Barnes, Staff Sgt. (Melanie) Blim, Staff Sgt. (Khalilah) Oliver and Senior Airman (Karrie) Conway has

been awesome," said Major Jesson. "Sergeant Desjardins and Airman Conway focus on processing Reserve travel vouchers, debts and military pay issues. Sergeant Barnes, Sergeant Blim and Sergeant Oliver have helped my squadron tremendously by scanning vouchers and process-

Reservist lends expertise to multi-national exercise

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt
Wing Public Affairs

For one 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron Reservist, training with people from 15 other countries to build a higher level of continuity and camaraderie during medical exercises is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Master Sgt. Michelle Anderson was the only person from McChord, actually the entire West Coast, to attend the Medical Training Exercise in Central and Eastern Europe May 2 to 14.

The exercise focused on mass casualty training scenarios and humanitarian aid in response to crisis situations. MEDCEUR is a Joint Chiefs of Staff regional/multilateral exercise sponsored by U.S. European Command. Croatia hosted the exercise this year, which drew about 400 multi-nationals in support of the Partnership for Peace Initiative. Serbia is slated to host the exercise in 2009.

Initially, Sergeant Anderson wasn't on the list to attend.

"During the Pacific Lifeline exercise (in February), I worked with two key members of MEDCEUR 08's exercise planning committee," said Sergeant Anderson. "One received orders to Afghanistan for a year, and because of my performance at Pacific Lifeline, I was invited to take his place in the exercise. I was definitely at the right place at the right time!"

Sergeant Anderson's skills were used significantly the first week of the exercise. She created a Master Sequence of Events Listing which consisted of creating patient injuries, along with the time line used during the exercise. The first day of the exercise had 50 patients, the second day had 100 patients, and the third day exercise players dealt with 150 patients. During the exercise, she was an observer and controller.

As an observer, Sergeant Anderson was able to see the differences in medical standards among countries.

"Basic skills such as patient comfort and proper and safe litter lifting are not taught (in other countries), or if they are, it isn't a priority," Sergeant Anderson said. "The



Photo by Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt
Master Sgt. Michelle Anderson, 446th Aerospace Staging Squadron, creates patient records for the Pacific Lifeline exercise in February. Due to her performance at Pacific Lifeline, she was invited to participate in the international exercise called MEDCEUR that took place May 2-14 in Croatia.

good news is the other countries were very receptive to our feedback. By the third day of the exercise, there was a significant improvement with safety and patient flow."

Overall, Sergeant Anderson was excited she was able to participate in the exercise.

"I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this and consider it a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Two provide care as part of Pacific Angel



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski

Col. Paul Abson, a doctor with the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, examines a Cambodian patient at the Kampong Cham Province Temple clinic.

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
Wing Public Affairs

Many countries don't have economies large enough to provide their citizens with standard medical care.

This is why Col. Paul Abson, 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and Master Sgt. James Clements, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, supported the Pacific Angel mission from May 20 to June 2 in Kampong Cham, Cambodia.

Pacific Angel is a humanitarian mission developed to bring medical, dental and optical assistance to Cambodia, said Sergeant Clements.

"The people were very patient, appreciative and wonderful," said Colonel Abson of his

experience in Cambodia.

While in Cambodia, Colonel Abson primarily provided care to patients. He detected cancer in a few extreme cases and taught preventative techniques to the locals to help prevent common diseases.

"We set up medical and dental sections in a Buddhist temple, said Colonel Abson. "They were extremely accommodating and we were respectful to their culture. They understood the importance of the mission because it was for their people and the greater good."

An optometry section was set up to screen patients' vision.

See ANGELS, Page 5

Ideas net Reservist \$16,000

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
Wing Public Affairs

A staff sergeant with the 446th Maintenance Squadron was awarded nearly \$16,000 in April for submitting two proposals that were approved through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program.

IDEA is an incentive program that promotes process improvement or resource savings through ideas submitted by military and civilian employees.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Parcasio, an air reserve technician with the 446th MXS, submitted two proposals in January. One was for repairing Intercom Set Control units, which are radio controls that allow aircrew members to communicate.

The original process was to condemn the damaged units when they came back from the field, said Sergeant Parcasio. His proposal would allow the avionics section to test and verify the good parts of the unit. Then, the ICSC would be disassembled and the serviceable parts would be sent back to supply here.

This allows the Air Force to keep all of the assets originally purchased from the vendor, said Sergeant Parcasio. This proposal saves the Air Force \$332,177.

The second proposal, submitted by Sergeant Parcasio was for Electronic Engine Control switch replacements. There are three switches on the front panel of an ECC. Originally, when the switches would fail, the entire front panel would be sent to the vendor for repair, said Sergeant Parcasio. With his proposal, MXS's back shop would fix the broken switches individually. This allows an Air Force savings of \$74,112.

"This program not only saves money,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle

Staff Sgt. Christopher Parcasio, left, demonstrates how to repair a Fuel System Engine Start control panel to Senior Airman Buell Richardson. Both Airmen are with the 446th Maintenance Squadron.

man hours and time," said Sergeant Parcasio. "It's cost effective and improves your job performance."

IDEA is a base-wide program, said Sergeant Parcasio. Any shop on base, active duty or Reserve, that uses a technical order can submit a proposal as long as it's cost effective.

Air Force Technical Order Form 22,

AFTO Form 135 and an "After the Fact" IDEA submission are the three methods to submit for an award, said Sergeant Parcasio.

"I'm actually working on other projects to save money and man hours," said Sergeant Parcasio. "The money I get is just a real good bonus, but this works out better for the Air Force as a whole."

ANGELS

Continued from Page 4

"If there were glasses or simple medicine that could help the patient, we delivered it to them," said Sergeant Clements.

About 700 people were seen a day. Out of the total 2,272 patients who were seen, 1,761 received primary care.

According to Sergeant Clements, the mission also brought a heavy dose of reality.

"These missions are very difficult," said Sergeant Clements. "The jet lag and climate were difficult to adapt to. The high number of patients also made it tough to keep mentally sharp. It was heartbreaking to

see some of the significant needs that presented themselves."

According to Sergeant Clements, working with other Air Force units made his job easier and more fulfilling.

It was a test of the military machine to see how well everyone performed their jobs with new co-workers, said Sergeant

Clements. Everyone was professional and functioned as a team.

"The seamless integration of all the Air Force components, Guard, Reserve and active duty, shows how effective the global reach of the Air Force is in accomplishing these missions," said Colonel Abson.

Salute



Days to remember

July 1, 1986

The 756th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Andrews AFB, Md., was the first Air Force Reserve unit to be equipped with its own C-141s.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Jerome Cerny III, 97th AS
Linda Mortensen, 313th AS

Master Sergeant

Alfredo Navarro, 86th APS
Mattie Monahan, 446th MSG
Roger Plemons, 313th AS
Murjan Sayfuddin, 97th AS
Robert Withrow, Jr. 313th AS
Christopher Yando, 86th APS

Technical Sergeant

Sean Bolstad, 446th AMDS
Dale Bucklin, 86th APS
Charles Foster, 446th AMDS
Ricardo Rivera, 446th MXS
Kyle Schnell, 86th APS
David Spurgeon, 446th AMXS
Paula Warwick, 446th MSS
Gretchen Woodhouse, 446th ASTS

Staff Sergeant

Kyle Blevins, 446th MXS
Anthony Carson, 446th ASTS
Carrie Conley, 446th AMDS
Trisha Feist, 446th AMDS
Daniel Hogan, 446th AMXS
Paul Gary Melo, 446th AMXS
David Mitchell, 36th APS
Michael Richardson, 446th ASTS
Brian Riewerts, 446th AMXS
Michael Scherping, 86th APS
Kevin Wetzal, 313th AS
Michael Wetzal, 446th CES

Senior Airman

Anthony Caldejon, 446th AMXS

Jesse Manaois, 446th AMXS
Rosemary Meeker, 446th ASTS

Airman First Class

Jeffrey Feakin, 446th MXS

Newcomers

Major

Steven Funanich, 97th AS

Captain

Sam Fenstermacher, 446th OSF

Master Sergeant

Russell Sherman, 86th APS

Technical Sergeant

Eric Frey, 446th CES

Staff Sergeant

Greagory Abel, 86th APS
Paul Berglund, 446th AMXS
Bernie Bernante, 446th AMDS
Jondra Boles, 446th ASTS
Andrew Brammeier, 446th AMDS
William Gaither, 446th AMXS
Josh Hodges, 36th APS
Brandon Howland, 446th CES
Robert Molato, 446th AES
Vaughn Roadruck, 36th APS
Gregory Roberts, 86th APS
Ryah Silvernagel, 446th ASTS
Steven Squires, 446th CES
Scott Templin, 728th AS
Shannon Ward, 446th ASTS

Senior Airman

Jonathan Baker, 446th AMXS
Becky Bullock, 446th AES

Michael Garcellano, 446th AMDS
Alfredo Garza, 446th SFS
Wendy Harrison, 446th MSS
Mathew Mathenia, 446th MSS
Peter Olsufka, 728th AS

Airman First Class

Aileen Escalicas, 446th MSS
Brandon Moniz, 446th AMXS

Airman

Lindsay Barnes, 446th ASTS
Kristen Lorena, 446th AMXS

Retirements

Lieutenant Colonel

Rainie Myr, 446th MSS
Thomas Vanourek, 728th AS

Major

William Bailey, 446th SVF

Senior Master Sergeant

Gary Boyd Jr., 86th APS
Paulette Grace, 446th CES
Ellen Spandel, 36th APS
Erlinda Villanueva, 86th APS

Master Sergeant

William Acton, 728th AS
Charles Buckner, 446th AMXS
Heather Latimer, 97th AS

Technical Sergeant

Richard Langowski, 86th APS
Steven Olmstead, 446th ASTS

FOLLOWERSHIP

Continued from Page 2

It takes a huge amount of tact and diplomacy to mentor upward. Trust must be established by the follower, as well as an innate ability to "get it." You must ask yourself if it's the right time and place for the coaching and whether you believe it will be received as intended.

The last and most important attribute that a good follower must possess is the ability to say no. Followers should assume the role of the conscience of the organization. Again, diplomacy is key to effective followership. Privately get the point across and ensure your intent is clear; to better the organization.

Remember good followership is the proving ground for good leadership. Every great leader started out as a follower.

Correction

In the June issue of the *446th Associate Press*, the UTA schedule was identified as FY 08; it is in fact, the FY 09 schedule.

PRIMARY	ALTERNATE
Oct. 4 - 5	18 - 19
Nov. 1 - 2	15 - 16
Dec. 6 - 7	13 - 14
Jan. 10 - 11	24 - 25
Feb. 7 - 8	21 - 22
March 7 - 8	21 - 22
April 4 - 5	18 - 19
May 2 - 3	16 - 17
June 6 - 7	27 - 28
July 11-12	25 - 26
Aug. 8 - 9	22 - 23
Sept. 12 - 13	19 - 20

Just Briefly

How have you prepared for the 101 Critical Days of Summer?

Prevention

I keep emergency equipment and supplies in my vehicle. I also advise being careful of overindulging in alcohol because of dehydration.



◆ Staff Sgt. Dean Burke
446th Operations Group

Safety Gear

"When I ride my motorcycle, I wear all of the necessary equipment. Wear a reflective vest, boots, gloves, long pants and a full-face helmet.



◆ Chief Master Sgt. Greg Pliler
446th Recruiting Squadron

Communication

I like to go hiking, so I make sure I let someone know where I'm going and that they have my contact information. Walkie talkies help too.



◆ Senior Airman Hannah Gill
446th Mission Support Squadron

Hydration

I always hydrate throughout the day. Whether I go hiking or play soccer, I make sure I drink water.



◆ Staff Sgt. Sammy Sobah
446th Mission Support Squadron

Family Days for groups, squadrons set for July, August

Family Days are set for the following units on the dates listed:

July 26 - 446th Mission Support Group, 44th Mission Support Squadron and wing staff at Holiday Park.

- 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, on the field near the Pub & Deli.

446th Civil Engineer Squadron at Bldg. 1211.

Aug. 9 - 446th Operations Group on the field near the Pub & Deli.

- 86th Aerial Port Squadron, 446th Logistics Readiness Flight and 446th Services Flight at American Lake on Fort Lewis.

Aug. 23 - 446th Maintenance Group at Holiday Park

- 446th Security Forces Squadron at Holiday Park.

- 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at Bldg. 691.

Reservists visit veterans at American Lake Hospital July 12

Reservists are invited to meet for a group visit to our veterans at American Lake Hospital in Tacoma on July 12.

Meet at 5:30 p.m., in the 446th Airlift Wing headquarters parking lot to carpool, or you can meet us there.

Please bring some toiletries for the veterans, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, liquid body soaps, mouthwashes, and deodorants, but please no razors. Or feel free to bring some sugar-free snacks to share.

Dress is uniform of the day. For more information, contact your unit first sergeant, or Senior Master Sgt. Theron Smith at 982-5041.

Fitness screenings limited to Saturday on Reserve weekends

Effective immediately, the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron will see Reservists for fitness screenings only from 1-3 p.m.. on Saturday of the UTAs.

Military personnel flight closes an extra day each week for now

The 446th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight has been conducting an audit of the unit personnel record groups in preparation for conversion from paper UPRGs to electronic records. The scheduled shipment date is currently Aug. 29. In order to meet this deadline, the MPF will be now be closed on Wednesdays (and continue to be closed on Thursdays), until all UPRGs have shipped.

Officers' Call is July 12

There will be Officers' Call July 12 in

Hangar 9 from 3 to 4 p.m., followed by a meeting for the Reserve Officers Association.

At the Officers' Call, Col. Tammy McKone, 4th AF/A1, will brief changes to the officer career programs.

The Mount Rainier ROA Chapter will have a short meeting that will include a guest speaker and refreshments.

Care and Share Golf Tournament

The 446th Airlift Wing Care and Share Golf Tournament is scheduled for Aug. 15 and you can help make it a big success. Volunteers are needed for the golf tournament that supports the wing's program that provides assistance to Reserve Airmen.

If you are interested, contact Senior Master Sgt. Mary Smith, 97th AS, at 982-3540, or Carl Supplee, director of the Airman and Family Readiness Office at 982-5330.

446th Employer Orientation Day

The next 446th Airlift Wing Employer Orientation Day will be Oct. 4. Look for applications for nominating your boss or human resources advisor in the August issue of the 446th Associate Press.

Recruiters seek Air Show volunteers to man booth

The Reserve recruiters are looking for four to eight volunteers for both days of the McChord Air Expo July 19-20 to assist them with the Jet car setup. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tech. Sgt. Richard Casavant at (253) 982-3501 or come by the Reserve Recruiting Office in Bldg. 1207, Room 107 to sign up.

AAFES holds contest to as a salute to military spouses

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will hold a Patriot Family Salutes the "Military Spouse" Calendar contest from May 11- July 28.

Entrants are invited to write an essay of 300 words or less explaining what the nominee has done to support the military community during a deployment.

Nominees must be authorized AAFES shoppers.

The 12 winners will receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree and have their essays published, along with their photos, in a "Military Spouse" calendar that will be available at all AAFES BXs/PXs in early November.

A complete description of the "Military Spouse" contest rules can be found online at AAFES.com <http://www.aafes.com/Patriot_Family/videocontest.asp> .

Entries must be postmarked or e-mailed to Patriot Family at aafes.com no later than July 28.

Aeromedical celebrates 50 years

Squadron lineage begins with the 40th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
Wing Public Affairs

The 50th anniversary celebration of the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will be held at noon July 12 at Heritage Park here.

The 446 AES's mission is to evacuate sick and injured Department of Defense patients from harm's way and transfer them to an environment that will support their recovery during wartime, peacetime and humanitarian operations, said Senior Master Sgt. David Poulsen, the senior enlisted manager of AES here.

The 446th AES has quite a few accomplishments in its history, dating back to when it was the 40th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from 1958-1996.

Tech. Sgt. Darlene Emineth, an operations manager at AES here, has written a book about the squadron entitled,

"The History of the 40th/446th AES."

In 1973, the 40th AES was given the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its contribution to Operation Homecoming, according to "The History of the 40th/446th AES."

The AES also provided crewmembers for the first all-Reserve aeromedical evacuation mission into Hanoi, Vietnam to bring home American prisoners of war.

During April and June 1975, the unit received letters of appreciation for its performance in support of Operation Baby-Lift for Vietnam refugees, said Sergeant Emineth. Hundreds of children were rescued by aeromedical evacuations during the U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam.

More recently, in support of Hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita and Wilma, Reserve

AES squadrons were responsible for 98 percent of overall aeromedical evacuations, said Sergeant Emineth.

According to Col. Jan Moore-Harbert, 446th AES commander, young

Airmen still jump at the opportunity to become members of such a challenging career field.

"I have new folks who are so anxious to get trained and qualified just so they can volunteer to deploy to the AOR to move our wounded warriors," said Colonel Moore-Harbert. "One of the things I have told them is that they are part of an exceptional unit and are its future. They will learn what this squadron has been built upon and they are the torch that will continue to carry on a lot of great tradition and good works."

The 446th AES is similar to a fire department, said

Sergeant Poulsen. Members have to be ready to deploy a lot quicker on a moment's notice than most career fields. The 446th AES has to be ready for that call.

The fact that this country has the AE capability and does it so well, primarily with Reserve and Guardsmen, is such a tribute to the citizen soldiers, said Colonel Moore-Harbert. The 446 AES responds to anything, any time, any where and has been doing it so successfully since the squadron was formed. Their dedication to the squadron, its mission and the Reserve has been unsurpassed throughout the squadron's history.

"I cannot say enough how proud I am to be the commander of this unit," said Colonel Moore-Harbert. "I can't wait until the anniversary celebration to hear the stories again. Everyone has a story to tell about that one mission that meant so much to them that made that difference in how long they kept doing the job. The stories may differ, but they are always told with a sense of pride in themselves, this unit, the mission and their dedication to this country."



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